

**Statement by Mr. Gokhool on Report of the Secretary-General on  
the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo –  
24 April 2002**

We join other delegations in extending a warm welcome at today's meeting to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Steiner. We are pleased to have him among us today to hear his assessment of the postelection situation in Kosovo and the challenges facing the province now that the provisional self-government is in place. We take this opportunity to congratulate him for the manner in which he has been able to step right into the shoes of his predecessor. We have no doubt that under his guidance the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) will continue to carry out its task efficiently and effectively to build a Kosovo as envisaged in resolution 1244 (1999), which remains the basis for building Kosovo's future. Mauritius fully supports the efforts of Mr. Steiner and his team.

We also extend a very warm welcome to the Deputy Prime Minister of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, Mr. Stokich. We thank him for his statement. His presence in the Council meetings reassures the international community of the willingness of the Yugoslav authorities to continue their collaboration with the United Nations in building a multi-ethnic, peaceful, democratic and prosperous Kosovo.

We are happy to note the agreement reached on the participation of the Kosovo Serb Return Coalition in the new Government. We call on all elected bodies to abide by their commitments to work together in the provisional institutions of self-government.

The security situation of minority communities in the province remains a high priority of the international community. Ethnically motivated attacks and the intimidation of minority communities, which continue to occur, are matters of great concern to my delegation. Such acts may disrupt the peace process. We commend the efforts of

UNMIK and KFOR in the protection of these people and in helping the integration process.

We note with satisfaction the various initiatives undertaken to facilitate the integration process. The concerns of the minority communities must be properly addressed by the representatives in the provisional self-government. The full engagement of the ethnic minorities in the administrative service is an important way forward to confidence-building measures. It is the view of my delegation, as it is of others, that creating parallel structures and opposing the authority of UNMIK will be most unproductive and not to the benefit of the Serb community in Mitrovica. We view the situation in that area with great concern. We deplore the recent attacks on UNMIK and KFOR personnel in that region. We believe that there is an urgent need for UNMIK, with the collaboration of KFOR and the Kosovo Police Service, to establish its full authority over the Mitrovica region as soon as possible to prevent extremist activities that can undermine stability in the region.

We call once again on all those who can help to improve the deteriorating situation in the Monrovia region to help UNMIK curb violence and to establish the rule of law in that area. We call on the minority communities in Kosovo, in particular the Serbs in the Mitrovica region, to integrate themselves into the structures established by UNMIK and to eliminate parallel structures. Perhaps the Belgrade authorities can use their influence over the Serb community in the Mitrovica region to persuade them to cooperate fully with UNMIK and the new Government in building a Kosovo in which all communities enjoy a free and peaceful life.

The fate of the detainees and missing persons has also been a very sensitive issue that has remained high on the agenda of both parties. Last month, we applauded the transfer of 146 Kosovo Albanian detainees from Serbian prisons to UNMIK. Some of them have been released, while the cases of others are still under consideration. The decision, taken after long-protracted discussions between Belgrade authorities and UNMIK, was a huge step towards building confidence on both sides. We encourage Mr. Steiner and Mr. ovi to continue their good work.

We also note with satisfaction the various steps taken by the High-Ranking Working Group to determine the fate of the missing persons. It is only through constructive dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina that much can be achieved. We therefore encourage the provisional self-government to engage in such dialogue with Belgrade for the benefit of the people of Kosovo.

Finally, we fully agree with the observations of the Secretary-General, as mentioned in his report, on the need for a roadmap for UNMIK and for the provisional self-government before the international community disengages itself from Kosovo. We thank Mr. Steiner for setting the benchmarks that would measure progress in Kosovo's institutional development.